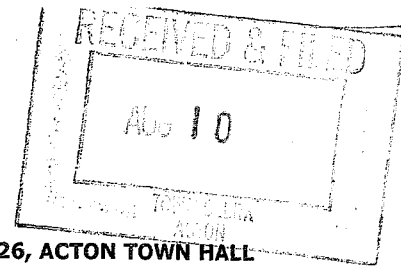




Town of Acton Recreation Commission



MINUTES

DATE: JULY 7, 2009

7:00 PM

ROOM 126, ACTON TOWN HALL

ATTENDEES

Recreation Commission members present were Ms. Karen Jarsky, Ms. Kim Bodnar and Mr. Ron Schlegel. Also present was Mr. Robert Farra, Robbins Mill Conservation Trust; Ms. Cathy Fochtman, Recreation Director and Ms. Cheryl Getsick, Secretary. Note taker: Ms. Cheryl Getsick

AGENDA TOPICS

Meeting called to order at: 7:00 PM

Citizens Concerns:

DISCUSSION

NARA BEACH

Ms. Fochtman received a concern regarding the arrival of beach goers who arrive at the beach later in the day. Mr. Ron Schlegel noted we are not able to control the arrival of people after hours. Ms. Fochtman stated lifeguards have been assertive about monitoring NARA Beach passes. Regarding her observance of inappropriate dress and verbiage, the possibility of stating this is a family facility and to please show some restraint was suggested. Ms. Fochtman will discuss with the Waterfront Director. Another concern was the possibility of creating a sign requesting "Be Kind To Animals" or adding this information onto the already existing sign. Ms. Fochtman will look into what other towns have posted.

CONSENT AGENDA

DISCUSSION

June 2, 2009 minutes

CONCLUSIONS

June 2, 2009 minutes accepted as amended

TOPIC: ROBBINS MILL CONSERVATION TRUST PROPOSAL

DISCUSSION

Mr. Robert Farra of the Robbins Mills Conservation Trust was in attendance. Ms. Fochtman commented she had a phone conversation with representatives of Robbins Mills Trust. Mr. Farra provided some background information on the development of Robbins Mills. The Recreation land is to be developed by Pulte and gifted to the Town. The Conservation Trust was set up to manage the common land regarding maintaining conservation and town standards. Up until Jan 2009 Pulte, the developer, managed the trust. Once the subdivision reached 75 homes, the trust was then handed over to the homeowners. Mr. Farra is President of the Trust; there are three (3) additional board positions. Mr. Farra provided a drawing of the recreation parcel for viewing. There are two inquiries by Mr. Farra. The first, has the Town of Acton or Recreation Committee made any changes since the plan was approved since 2004. Ms. Fochtman's response was "No". The second inquiry deals with an idea proposed by some of the residents to make this a "Resident Only" play area. Is the Town of Acton open to selling the field to the residents to make it private land and if so, what is the price for this?

CONCLUSIONS

The Commissioners will discuss along with contacting Mr. Roland Bartl.

TOPIC: NARA YOUTH, BEACH UPDATES

DISCUSSION

Ms. Fochtman reported the second week of NARA Youth is currently underway. Enrollment is down from last year. There is capacity for 80 children each session however Recreation currently has enrollment of 47. Looking ahead, there is not an increase in the numbers. This effects the staffing needed for Counselors and CIT's. Recreation has more staff hired than hours available. Ms. Jen Anderson has been providing staff a split schedule. There is more of a demand for hours than we have availability. The Beach lifeguards have had fewer hours due to inclement weather. Ms. Jarsky noted Long Lake in Littleton has shade structures and a playground is close enough to the beach. Shade is a huge factor for parents at NARA.

CONCLUSIONS

Shade structures purchases will be looked into for next year.

TOPIC: FOURTH OF JULY

DISCUSSION

This event was a great time had by all reported Ms. Fochtman. Both the Minute Men and the Historical Society arrived in costume to help collect donations. Sponsorship for fireworks was provided by Gould's and Donelan's other event donations were received by Enterprise Bank, Cambridge Savings Bank, Dunkin Donuts and Acton Toyota. Recreation opened the new amphitheater snack bar/ticket booth.

CONCLUSIONS

The sales from the snack bar helped offset some event expenses.

TOPIC: LIONS CLUB FAIR

DISCUSSION

Recreation is going to meet with the Lions Club to review the event at the end of the month. The Lions Club's was very impressed with layout and organization of this event and look forward to future events at NARA. Ms. Fochtman heard feedback from residents as well regarding their overall

enjoyment.

CONCLUSIONS

Recreation will hear back more from the Lions Club.

TOPIC: REPORTS

A) Elm Street Update – Nothing to report

b) Morrison Farm Update – The architectural firm “Kelleher” is working on a proposal to develop plans for the building, barn and surrounding property. They are looking to get it done relatively soon. This firm has agreed to put together architectural plans and designs for our picnic pavilion. We need this in order to go to bid. Our goal is to have it ready for next year and to have a space to rent and earn some revenue.

c) CPC – Next September is when the funding cycle will begin. There is a bill pending that will change the requirements which will make it easier for recreation.

d) NARA Improvements – The multi-purpose room is almost completed.

DISCUSSION

e) School Street — Ms. Fochtman has been receiving emails from Youth Soccer regarding field repairs and maintenance. She proposed “overseeding” and was seeking financial support from Soccer to help defer the costs. Soccer remains concerned with repairs and maintenance at both Concord Road and NARA.

f) Open Space and Recreation Plan – There has not been any movement on that yet. The committee has been busy with pending projects. Ms. Fochtman stated Mr. Andy Magee is assisting.

g) Playground Update – Recreation has added additional mulch to NARA and Goward playgrounds. The drainage at NARA is improved however remains an issue. The playgrounds require additional mulch. The playground fence at NARA needs replacement. A playground assessment will be drafted by Ms. Fochtman for Ms. Jarsky's review. Once completed, this information will be provided to the Board of Selectman.

NEW BUSINESS/DISCUSSION

DISCUSSION

Nothing to report

MEETING ADJOURNED TIME:

8:50 PM